



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

## MPS District Identified for Improvement Plan Overview

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is required by law to annually identify districts that did not make adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward meeting the state's academic performance standards. Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) has been identified as a *District Identified for Improvement (DIFI) Level 2*, based on testing in the 2006-07 school year. As a district, MPS has not made adequate yearly progress for three consecutive years on the same objectives (i.e., reading and mathematics) at the elementary, middle, and high school grade spans. If MPS misses AYP again in 2007-08, the district moves to a *DIFI Level 3* status. While the DPI may take corrective action at any time with respect to a district identified for improvement, at the end of the second full year a district is identified for improvement the agency is required to impose corrective action as defined by federal law.

MPS has assessed district and school needs through a Council for Great City Schools review and developed an *Action Plan to Improve Milwaukee Public Schools* approved by the MPS Board of Directors. We all agree with the action plan statement, "We cannot achieve different results without doing things differently." The DPI is committed to increasing the achievement of all Milwaukee students and closing achievement gaps by building on the work of the Council for Great City Schools, supporting the MPS action plan, and working in collaboration with MPS. The agency also is directing MPS to implement delineated, high-leverage strategies as a requirement of receiving Title I Supplement Grant funds. The high-leverage strategies include

- Offering summer school in all schools identified for improvement (SIFI), starting in the summer of 2008, with a focus on reading and mathematics instruction.
- Expanding reading/ mathematics instruction in all SIFI schools at the primary and intermediate levels and providing reading intervention courses at the high school level starting with the 2008-09 school year.
- Developing a plan for extended calendars of a minimum of 30 additional days of instruction to be piloted in 2008-09 at two SIFI schools.
- Providing targeted professional development for principals of SIFI schools starting this school year.
- Using the district and school improvement accountability model to ensure consistent implementation of the district DIFI plan and district- and state-identified high-leverage strategies as well as monitoring of educational plans at the school level.

Additionally, MPS is required by state law to identify all initial educators and provide high-quality mentoring and support.

These high-leverage strategies and the accountability plan advance the commitment of the DPI and MPS to increase achievement, close achievement gaps, and eliminate disparities in student learning in Milwaukee. The DPI is assisting MPS in funding the high-leverage strategies through use of Title I funds, including \$3.7 million this year in Title I Supplemental Aid. To achieve different, improved results for the students of Milwaukee Public Schools and ensure change reaches into the classroom level, it is time to do things differently.

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